

**BOROUGH OF
GREAT TORRINGTON
1938.**

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health,
Sanitary Surveyor
and Inspector.*

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

GREAT TORRINGTON :

Printed by GEO. COPP, "Osborne Printing Works."

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To the Great Torrington Borough Council

Medical Officer's Report.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

Area—Acres 3583·161.

Population 2785.

Rateable Value £11,662.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £47 0s. 9d.

Births were 29. Birth Rate 10·41 per 1,000

Deaths were 39. Death Rate 14·02 per 1,000

Compared with the National Birth Rate, 15·1 per 1000

„ „ National Death Rate, 11·6 per 1000

Deaths under 1 year old, 1, m.

Still Births, 0.

The causes of Death were :—

Tuberculosis of Lungs	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	2
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	16
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2
Apoplexy	...	...	...	...	3
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	2
Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	0
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	0
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	0
Gastric Diseases	...	...	...	...	0
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2
Senility	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1
Disease of Liver	...	...	...	...	0
Violence (Accidents)	...	...	...	...	1
Other defined causes	...	...	...	...	4

Total ... 39

Notifiable Diseases.

Scarlet Fever	6	Puerperal	0
Diphtheria	3	Pneumonia	1
Enteric	0		

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

The number of cases on the list of the County Tuberculosis Officer at the end of 1938 was 21.

Lungs, ...	16	10 Males, 6 Females.
Other Forms,	5	2 Males, 3 Females.

The total number of cases under treatment of the County Tuberculosis Officer were less than half what they were 10 years ago. It is gratifying to note that these conditions still hold good.

The usual official inspections have been made of Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, Schools and Factories, and everything found satisfactory.

As regards the Milk retailed in the Borough, continued improvement is maintained, and on the whole the samples examined have been very satisfactory.

Again my acknowledgments are due to Mr. Kingsley for the very great assistance he gives me in all matters.

The disposal of the effluent from the Torridge Vale Milk Factory still remains a difficult crossword puzzle, and will take a clever expert to solve it.

FREDK. PRIDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector's Report.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

Water.

A constant supply of water was maintained throughout the year.

During the period, 279 defects were detected and remedied.

Constant attention to leak detection keeps this form of wastage down to a minimum.

The consumption of water continues to increase.

Complaints were received during the year concerning the supply of water in Halsdon Terrace, Villa Road, and parts of Mill Street. The fact that the mains are gradually becoming smaller through encrustation and the consumption of water increases steadily each year probably accounts for the reason for such complaints.

During the week preceding Christmas there were many burst pipes owing to the severity of the frost.

In connection with the water supply, nine samples were taken and sent for analysis. Six of these samples were satisfactory, and two of those which were not satisfactory were taken in connection with supplies which it was thought might be utilized in case of excessive drought.

Scavenging.

The removal of house refuse and street sweeping by direct labour continues to give satisfaction.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

Number and nature of Inspections. Total number, 131.

NATURE :—

1	After Infectious and other Diseases and for Disinfection	...	12
2	Upon Complaints	... ..	13
3	For detection of Nuisances	... ..	45
4	Re-inspections	... ..	9
5	New Houses for Occupation	... ..	1
6	Workshops and Bakehouses	... ..	25
7	Dairies	... ..	13
8	Cowsheds	... ..	13

NOTICES.

Statutory	...	...	...	...	0
Informal (including letters)		...	...	...	12

RESULT OF SERVICE.

Nuisances were abated without trouble.

SHOPS ACTS.

No complaints were received under the Shops Act.

Bakehouses, Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

All Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses were inspected and nuisances remedied as tabulated below —

Inspections	...	...	...	25
Written Notices	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil
Defects found...	...	...	...	Nil
Defects remedied	...	...	...	Nil

Infectious Diseases.

In all cases of Infectious Diseases the Room, and where necessary, the whole Houses, were thoroughly disinfected after removal or recovery of the patient.

Summary of Nuisances dealt with.

Smoke Tests on Drains and Drains found defective	...	...	32
New Closet Pans	...	...	5
Privies converted to W.C's.	...	...	0
Defective Gullies	...	...	7
Drains cleared	...	...	11
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	2
Wells and Pumps repaired	...	...	0
Roofs repaired	...	...	19
Animals improperly kept	...	...	2
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	2

Disinfestation ...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	0
Samples of Water for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	9
House Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective Wells	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	1

No legal proceedings were taken, preliminary notices in all cases proving sufficient.

Sanitary Surveyor's Report.

Plans.

In connection with New Buildings the following Inspections were carried out :—

Inspection of Sites on commencement, etc.	...	4
Inspection of Footings	... ..	4
Inspection and Tests of New Drains	...	24
Inspection on completion	... ..	4
Number of Plans approved	... ..	10

Including Housing (R.W.) Act, 1926.

Sewerage.

Further amended plans for a New Scheme for the improvement of the Bidnawell and Torridge Vale Sections are in course of preparation. During the Autumn approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Burwood outfall sewer was taken up and re-laid on a new line.

Petroleum Acts.

There are 16 Licensed Premises under the Petroleum and Carbide Acts. These premises were examined and found in order and new Licences were issued under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

The fees for Licences received during the year amounted to £9 10s. 0d.

One additional Licence was issued in place of one existing without additional fees.

Housing.

Number of Inhabited Houses (approx.) 793.

Number of New Houses erected during the period :—

By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	1
By Council	...	...	...	0
Number of houses demolished for road widening purposes	...			3
Number still to be demolished for road widening purposes	...			8

Housing Statistics.

Year ending 31st December, 1938.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	27
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				32
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	16
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				16
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	7

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	7
---	-----	---

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | | |
| (a) | by owners | ... .. | Nil |
| (b) | by local authority in default of owners | ... | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) | by owners | ... .. | Nil |
| (b) | by local authority in default of owners | ... | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|-----|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | Nil |

E. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices became operative requiring repairs | ... | Nil |
|-----|--|-----|-----|

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :— | |
| (a) | by owners | Nil |
| (b) | by local authority in default of owners ... | Nil |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | Nil |

F. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... | Nil |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders became operative ... | Nil |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

**Housing (Rural Workers') Acts,
1926 and 1931.**

During the period under review Three Houses were reconditioned under the above Act.

This Act, so ably administered by the County Council, has indeed been a boon to the Borough.

Few Houses in the Borough suitable for re-construction under this Act now remain.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	32
Number of Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	13
Number of Inspections of Dairies	...	...	...	...	13

The Dairies were generally good and clean.

Continued improvement was noticeable in the cleanliness of the Cowsheds during the period under review.

General conditions for the production of clean Milk show gradual improvement.

During the period 21 samples were taken and sent to the County Bacteriologist for analysis. Ten were satisfactory.

The percentage of passes is approximately the same as in the preceding year.

Meat Inspection.

Meat Inspection is carried out in a regular and systematic manner, as far as possible all the meat is examined at the time of slaughter, and inspections are carried out in the Butcher Shops.

The following was condemned during the period under review :
45 lbs. Pork, and 940 lbs. Beef.

One Inspection was made for additional casual slaughter, notice of which was duly received.

The Slaughter Houses generally are cleanly kept. Slaughtering of ALL animals is done by means of a humane killer.

R. W. C. KINGSLEY, M.INST.H.E., M.R.SAN.I.,

Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

